

Funds Released for Upliftment of Scheduled Castes

289. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds released to Kerala during 1994-95 under the Special Central Assistance for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes;

(b) the total budgetary outlay under this scheme for Kerala for 1995-96 alongwith the actual amount released during this period; and

(c) the budgetary outlay under this scheme for 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Rs 508.81 Lakhs.

(b) Budgetary outlay for States/UTs is not fixed in advance for the following reasons

(i) Special Central Assistance is apportioned among the States/UTs on the basis of certain fixed criteria including SC population percentage and relative backwardness of the States/UTs and efforts being taken by the States/UTs for the development of SCs

(ii) Information on the efforts being taken by the States/UTs is normally received by the Central Government in the third quarter of the financial year and there are downward or upward variation in the efforts taken by the States/UTs year after year.

The actual amount released to Kerala for 1995-96 was Rs 492.73 lakhs

(c) No budgetary outlay under this scheme has been made to any state for the reason mentioned at (a) above. A sum of Rs 287.98 lakh has been released to Kerala as first instalment of SCA for 1996-97, on the basis of SC population percentage and relative backwardness of States/UTs.

Child Labour

290. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH
KUMARI UMA BHARATI
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA
SHRI N. DENNIS
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of child labourers working in various factories and as domestic servants, separately,

(b) whether the Government propose to ban on child labour;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the progress made in regard to eliminate the child labour; and

(e) the time by which the child labour problem is likely to be completely eliminated?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The number of child labourers working in various factories and as domestic servants are not maintained.

(b) and (c). As per the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in Parts 'A' & 'B' of the Schedule to the Act. Through a Notification dated 26.5.1993, the working conditions of children have been regulated in all employments which are not prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act.

(d) and (e). While the ultimate aim is the complete elimination of the practice of child labour, the progressive release and rehabilitation of an estimated 20 lakh children engaged in hazardous employments by 2000 AD has been taken up in the first instance. So far, 76 National child labour projects have been sanctioned to cover around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. The Government has not finalised any time-frame for complete elimination of child labour in employments.

Setting up of N.H.F.D.C.

291. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation with equity participation of both Centre and States;

(b) if so, whether the proposal was submitted during the meeting of State Ministers of Welfare held in 1996, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Government has decided to set up the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to promote economic developmental activities, self-employment and other ventures for the benefit/ economic rehabilitation of the handicapped persons with an authorised share capital of Rs 400 crores (Rupees Four Hundred Crores only) divided into 40 lakhs (Forty Lakhs equity share of Rs 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand)

each. The paid-up capital would be Rs. 200 crores. The entire equity will be held by Government of India, to begin with.

(b) The decision to set up the Corporation had already been taken prior to the meeting of the State Ministers of Welfare held in 1996. However, it was recommended by the State Ministers of Welfare that National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation may be set up most expeditiously with equity participation of both Central and State Governments.

(c) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation will give loans to persons with disabilities for undertaking self-employment projects, pursuing higher/technical education etc. with a view to bring them into the mainstream of economic activity. Efforts are being made to operationalise the Corporation as early as possible.

Electricity Under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan

292. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide electricity in the villages under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan;

(b) if so, the States where village electrification programmes have been undertaken under the above plans; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard during the remaining period of the current Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Special Component Plan (S.C.P.) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plan for Scheduled Tribes are formulated and implemented by State Govts./UT Adms. Special Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs to Supplement the economic development schemes of income generation for SCs, under taken under their SCPs. Similarly special Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs to support their Tribal Sub Plan for Scheduled Tribes and the State can utilise this fund for providing electricity connection to individual families in Tribal areas. Under the power sector, States earmark allocation for SCP generally for electrification of scheduled Caste Basties/Localities, house connection, energisation of Pump sets, etc. This is to avoid national allocation for SCP under this sector and also in view of the fact that Scheduled Caste population is scattered in nature. However information on village electrification programme under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

Newspapers

293. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of small and medium newspapers being published in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these newspapers face acute shortage of newsprint; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase allocation of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details about names, languages, places of publications, ownership, circulation figures etc. of all those newspapers which are registered with the office of the RNI are compiled once in five years. The latest published Volume is 'Press in India 1991' which is available in the Parliament House Library. The next edition i.e. 'Press in India 1996' is due for publication after September 1996.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Flights to Indore-Delhi and Bhopal-Delhi Routes

294. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no flights on Sunday from Indore-Delhi and Bhopal-Delhi routes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any demand in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) NEPC Airlines operates on Bhopal-Delhi sector on Sundays. There is no flight from Indore to Delhi on Sundays.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Doordarshan Relay Centres

295. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of the Doordarshan Relay Centres in Bihar alongwith capacity thereof;